

## The Book of Purification

# Chapter on Water

From: **Tawdeeh al-Ahkaam min Bulugh al-Maraam**  
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### Hadeeth Number One

It is related from Aboo Hurairah, who said: The Messenger of Allaah, sallallaahu 'alayhi was sallam, said about seawater: **"Its water is purifying and its dead are halaal."**

Related by the four<sup>1</sup> and Ibn Abee Shaibah and the wording is his. Authenticated by Ibn Khuzaimah and at-Tirmidhee. It is also related by Maalik, ash-Shaafi'ee and Ahmad.

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### Grading of the Hadeeth

The Hadeeth is Saheeh.

At-Tirmidhee said: This hadeeth is Hasan Saheeh. I asked al-Bukhaaree about it and he said: It is Saheeh.

Az-Zurqaanee said in his Explanation of al-Muwattaa: This hadeeth is from amongst the foundations of Islaam and it has been accepted by the scholars.

A group of scholars have authenticated it like al-Bukhaaree, al-Haakim, Ibn Hibbaan, Ibn al-Mundhir, at-Tahaawee, al-Baghawee, al-Khataabee, Ibn Khuzaimah, ad-Daraqutnee, Ibn Hazm, Ibn Taymiyyah, Ibn Daqeeq al-'Eid, Ibn Katheer, Ibn Hajar and many others whose number goes past 63 a'immah.

### Points Taken from the Hadeeth

- 1) The general purity of seawater without any particularization. It is pure in itself and it purifies others. This is the saying of all the scholars except a few which is of no consideration.
- 2) That seawater removes the major impurity and the minor. It removes impurities mixed with the pure area from one's body, clothes, or any other spot.
- 3) If the taste, colour, or smell of water changes with something pure, then it remains upon its state of being pure and it is still actual water, even if it contains a lot of salt and if it is very hot or very cold.

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<sup>1</sup> The four means the Four Sunans.

4) That the dead animals of the sea are halaal. What is meant by its dead are those of its creatures who died in it and they are the animals who live in the sea.

5) The hadeeth shows that it is not obligatory to carry more water than one is able to do so for purifying needs because they said they carried a small amount of water.

6) His saying, sallallaahu 'alayhi was sallam: **"Its water is purifying"**, came in the definite form but it does not negate the fact that nothing else also purifies, as the reply to the question was to do with sea water. So he chose the correct specific wording.

7) The advantage of giving extra in the ruling for the question. This is when the mufti thinks that the questioner would be ignorant about this ruling and that it may cause him trouble later, like what happened regarding the issue of the dead animals of the sea for the travellers.

Ibn al-'Arabee said: This is better that the ruling is given with extra from what was asked to increase benefit and to add upon the knowledge asked for. This is more so if a need arises for the ruling like what had happened here. It is not necessary if it does not concern him.

8) Ash-Shaafi'ee said: This hadeeth contains half of the knowledge of purification.

Ibn Mullaqqin said: This is a great hadeeth. This hadeeth is from amongst the foundations of Islaam containing many rulings and important principles.

### Differences of the Scholars

Imaam Aboo Haneefah said that the sea animals are not halaal except the various types of fish. As for the others they are those that resemble land animals like humans, snakes, dogs, pigs and others. So these are not halaal with Aboo Haneefah.

What is well known from the madhhab of Imaam Ahmad is the permissibility of all sea animals except frogs, snakes and crocodiles. As for the frog and snake they are from the noxious animals and as for the crocodile it possesses fangs to hunt animals with.

Imaam Maalik and Imaam ash-Shaafi'ee said all the sea animals are permissible to eat without exception. They used the statement of the Most High,

**"Lawful for you is (the pursuit of) water-game"**<sup>2</sup>

as a proof. What is meant by game is what is hunted in it. Also his saying, sallallaahu 'alayhi was sallam: **"The two dead things which have been made lawful for us: the locust and the fish."** Related by Ahmad and Ibn Maajah.

And also what is mentioned in the hadeeth of the chapter **"its dead are halaal"** is the final saying.

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<sup>2</sup> Al-Ma'idah - 5:96